

Application Serial No: 10/814,360
In reply to Office Action of 16 February 2006

Attorney Docket No. 84125

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 10-19 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 6, and 8 are rejected, and claims 4, 5 and 7 are objected to by this response. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4, 5 and 7 are canceled by this action.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6 and 8. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oplinger et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oplinger et al. in view of Hiyoshi.

The Examiner rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oplinger as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Whatley.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the remarks that follow.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating limitations from allowable claims 4, 5 and 7 therein. The Examiner has indicated that these claims are allowable. Applicant's amendment incorporates the range between the specific diameter provided in claims 4 and 5 and the diameter provided in claim 7. Applicant suggests that this gives the same affect as rewriting claims 4, 5 and 7 in independent form. In view of this

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amendment, claims 4, 5 and 7 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully solicits reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 6 and 8.

In view of the remarks above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone James M. Kasischke, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,
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15 May 2006

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